

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 5, 7, 8 and 13 - 19 are pending in the present application. Claims 6 and 9 were previously canceled, claims 10 – 12 are canceled by the present amendment, and claims 13 - 19 are newly added.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 7, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 11 and 12 are canceled, and as such, the rejection is moot with respect to claims 11 and 12.

Claim 7 recites that a cavity end mirror is partly transparent. The Office Action indicates that this recital is indefinite because it is not clear what structure makes the cavity end mirror partly transparent for coupling out an output beam, and the Office Action asks how does one determine what part of the beam is permitted to pass from the cavity end mirror. Applicants respectfully submit that mirrors and lenses that are partly reflective and partly transparent are well understood by a person reasonably skilled in the art of optics. As such, the recital of the cavity end mirror being partly transparent is not indefinite. Nevertheless, Applicants are amending claim 7 to clarify that the cavity end mirror couples out a portion of a resonant beam.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 112 rejection of claims 7, 11 and 12.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 5, 7, 8 and 10 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,282,215 to Zorabedian et al. (hereinafter "the Zorabedian et al. patent") when considered with U.S. Patent No. 6,002,703 to Hwu et al. (hereinafter "the Hwu et al. patent"). Claims 10 – 12 are canceled, and as such, the rejection is moot with respect to claims 10 - 12. Of the remaining rejected claims, one claim is independent, namely claim 1. Applicants amended claim 1 to recite a feature that is neither described nor suggested by the cited combination of references.

Claim 1 provides for a laser source. The laser source includes, *inter alia*, a laser medium that emits a laser beam, a cavity end mirror, a wavelength tunable filter arranged between the laser medium and the cavity end mirror, and a focussing optics that focuses the laser beam on the cavity end mirror. The cavity end mirror is curved.

The Office Action, on page 4, recognizes that the Zorabedian et al. patent does not disclose a curved cavity end mirror, and so, introduces the Hwu et al. patent, which discloses an optical reflector 32 having a parabolic cavity 34 (FIG. 4, col. 5, lines 57 – 63). A semiconductor laser 10 emits a diverging beam 38, that is incident upon optical reflector 32 (col. 6, lines 24 – 26). Whereas the Hwu et al. patent expressly describes **diverging beam** 38 being incident upon optical reflector 32, its teaching is inconsistent with that of a focussing optics that **focuses the laser beam** on the cavity end mirror, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the cited combination of the Zorabedian et al. and Hwu et al. patents.

Claims 2 – 5, 7 and 8 depend from claim 1. By virtue of this dependence, claims 2 – 5, 7 and 8 are also patentable over the cited combination of references.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 1 – 5, 7, 8 and 10 – 12.

Applicants amended claim 1 to recite a feature that is neither described nor suggested by the art of record. Claims depending from claim 1 are being amended for one or more of (a) providing consistency with claim 1, (b) improving grammar, or (c) providing a proper antecedent basis for terms. None of the amendments is intended to limit the scope of any of the terms of any of the claims. Therefore, the Doctrine of Equivalents should be available for all of the terms of all of the claims.

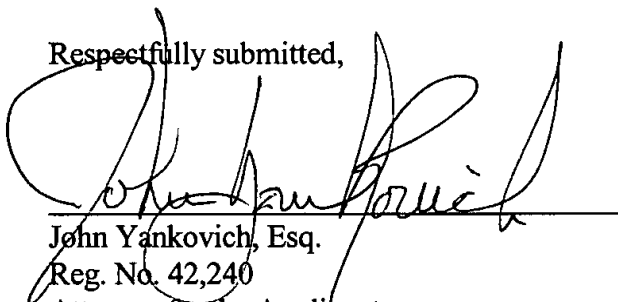
Applicants are adding claims 13 – 19 to further provide the claim coverage that Applicants appear to deserve based on the art that has been thus far cited. A favorable consideration that also results in an allowance of claims 13 – 19 is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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